October 20, 1973

Pre-Law Office
Dean of Students Building
University of Pennsylvania
3533 Locust Walk
Philadelphia, Pa. 19104

Gentlemen:

It is not only because I encouraged Howard Roffman to make law his career that I write to recommend him for admission to law school. It is because of the reason I encouraged him: Because I believe he will make an excellent lawyer and because I believe the profession urgently needs men and women of his exceptionally high ethical and moral standards and practices.

From my own experience with the law and lawyers and from extensive writing about both, I also believe Mr. Roffman has a natural bent for the law. From extracurricular work embodied in a book that is now under consideration for publication, he has, in a sense, served a kind of apprenticeship in "evidence." He has spent more time than a doctorate requires in an excellently performed personal study of the largest quasi-judicial inquiry of any official body of which I know. I have had close contact with how he has done this, know the approaches and means he used, and have seen the imaginativeness and the responsibility of his methods. When I compare his performance and results with those of experienced, practicing lawyers in the same field, I believe it is impossible to exaggerate the competence and maturity he displayed.

Mr. Roffman was still in high school when I first met him. Because of his interest in my work and because my wife and I grew quite attached to him, he has since been a regular visitor here. From these visits we have come to know and to appreciate his character. I have known some of our most eminent lawyers, including two Attorneys General of the United States; many more Assistant Attorneys General in charge of divisions of the Department of Justice; United States Attorneys and their assistants, including several who became judges; and local prosecutors in several cities. In addition, I have known and had dealings with a fairly large number of lawyers who were Senators and Congressmen. (I worked for the Senate for some years.) The nature of my relationships with some of these men of legal eminence was close and personal, so I do have a basis for comparing Mr. Roffman's character with theirs. It is not to deprecate them to say I have never met a man I believe to be as unlikely ever to be corrupted.

He has written a book in competition with my own work. He has had access to all my unpublished work. Yet he has not included any of it in his manuscript. Experience tells me that this, too, is superior conduct today, more so because of his extreme youth when he began his book.

On all counts, personal character, natural ability, self-imposed discipline and a rare intellect, I know no one I can recommend as highly to be a lawyer and who would be an asset to the profession.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg